

Appln. No.: 09/817,998
Amdt. Dated June 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated April 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered, said method comprises the steps of:

depositing with the carrier mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address;

capturing the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender in the form of an image;

transmitting the image to a data center where the image is processed by translating the image consisting of text and graphics to alphanumerics;

translating the name and physical address of the recipient into a telephone number;

utilizing the telephone number of the recipient and the translated image alphanumerics to inform the recipient of the [availability]expected delivery of the deposited mail via a tactile communication device;

notifying the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; [and]

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delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier; and

charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

2. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to a specified name and address.

3. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to return the mail to the sender.

4. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to open the mail.

5. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and

mailing by e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.

6. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified e-mail addresses; and

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mailing by e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the specified e-mail addresses.

7. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to send by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and
mailing by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.

8. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified facsimile numbers; and
sending by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the specified facsimile numbers.

9. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient at a different address.

10. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

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11. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a faster delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

12. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail.

13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:

charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail; and

~~charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.~~

15. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
informing the sender of the delivery of the mail.

16. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to hold the mail for a specified period of time.

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17. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to destroy the mail.

18. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail.

19. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via e-mail of the availability of the deposited mail.

20. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via telephone of the availability of the deposited mail.

21. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via facsimile of the availability of the deposited mail.

22. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via television of the availability of the deposited mail.

23. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via e-mail of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

24. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via facsimile of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

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25. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via telephone of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

26. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies a data center who notifies the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

27. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is visually impaired.